

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 07387 291715Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /079 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6372

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 7387

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, ELAB, SHUM, PE

SUBJECT: LABOR LEADERS RELEASED

REF: LIMA 6203

1. THE GOP RELEASED THREE LABOR LEADERS AUGUST 24 WHO HAD BEEN DETAINED SINCE THE JULY 19 STRIKE THAT CAUSED WORK STOPPAGES THROUGHOUT PERU. FREED WERE EDUARDO CASTILLO, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MOSCOW-LINE CGTP LABOR CONFEDERATION; VICTOR SANCHEZ,, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC CNT CONFEDERATION; AND SERGIO APARICIO, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE INDEPENDENT BUT LEFTIST CTRP CONFEDERATION. IN ADDITION, GOP HAS RETURNED TO THE CONFEDERATION THEIR OFFICES WHICH WERE SEIZED BY POLICE AFTER THE CRACKDOWN.

2. THE GOP HAD PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED (REFTEL) THAT THE LEADERSHIP OF THE UNIONS INVOLVED IN THE STRIKE WOULD BE TRIED ON CHARGES RELATED TO THE "ILLEGAL STRIKE" ACTIVITY AND THE VIOLENT DISTURBANCES THAT OCCURRED IN CONNECTION WITH THE WORK STOPPAGE. HOWEVER, LIMA'S GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS ANNOUNCED AUGUST 25 THAT THE THREE UNION OFFICIALS HAD BEEN RELEASED BECAUSE OF THE INTERCESSION OF JULION CRUZADO, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE APRA-BACKED CTP LABOR CONFEDERATION. THE CTP DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE JULY 19 STRIKE.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 LIMA 07387 291715Z

3. CRUZADO MET WITH PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ ON AUGUST 22 AND AT THAT TIME ASKED THAT THE RIVAL LABOR LEADERS BE RELEASED FOR THE SAKE OF "LABOR SOLIDARITY."

4. COMMENT: CRUZADO'S MEETING WITH MORALES-BERMUDEZ WAS GIVEN FRONT-PAGE NEWS COVERAGE. IN ADDITION, THE PRESS REPORTS

GIVE CLEAR CREDIT FOR THE RELEASE OF CASTILLO, SANCHEZ, AND APARICIO TO THE CTP SECRETARY GENERAL. ALSO, CRUZADO WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD PROMISED HIM AN "EXHAUSTIVE INVESTIGATION" OF CASES OF WORKERS FIRED IN CONNECTION WITH THE JULY 19 STRIKE. CONSEQUENTLY, THE MORALES-BERMUDEZ/CRUZADO MEETING AND ITS AFTERMATH CAN ONLY ADD TO THE RESURGENT INFLUENCE OF THE CTP AMONG RANK AND FILE WORKERS (FOLLOWING SEVERAL DIFFICULT YEARS) AND TO THE PERSONAL PRESTIGE OF CRUZADO. THE DECISION BY THE GOP TO RELEASE THE UNION LEADERS APPEARS TO BE PART OF AN EFFORT TO MEND RELATIONS WITH THE LABOR SECTOR IN THE WAKE OF THE CRACKDOWN IN JULY. SHLAUDEMAM

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TAGS: PINT, PINS, ELAB, SHUM, PE
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